

2648.63638

Serial No. 09/652,268

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) ~~An extension assembly for a~~ A cutting tool having

comprising

a body with an opening defined therein, and a trigger that can be actuated by a

first hand,

a protective cover connected to the body,

a shaft rotatably mounted within the body,

a positioning collar attached to the shaft, and

a circular cutter attached adjacent to the positioning collar, ~~comprising; and~~

an extension assembly, said extension assembly including

a connecting tube having first and second ends, said first end of said connecting tube being connectable to the shaft when the positioning collar is removed from the shaft;

an extension rod having first and second ends, said first end of said extension rod being connectable to said second end of said connecting tube; and

a cylinder having a body end and an operating end, said body end of said cylinder being connectable to the opening of the body, and said extension rod being rotatably fittable into said cylinder;

wherein the positioning collar is attachable to said second end of said extension rod, and the protective cover is attachable to said operating end of said cylinder; said extension assembly further having an adjustable handle assembly slidably mountable on said cylinder, said handle assembly having a handle that can be gripped by a second hand.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The ~~extension assembly~~ cutting tool of claim ~~12~~

~~11~~, wherein said handle assembly includes a rotatable tube mountable onto a periphery of said cylinder, and a threaded rod operably connectable to said handle.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~extension assembly~~ cutting tool of claim ~~11~~,

wherein said cylinder has a through hole defined therein for accommodating said connecting tube and said extension rod.

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(Currently amended) The ~~extension assembly~~ cutting tool of claim 11,

further comprising a pair of bearings mounted to said first and second ends of said extension rod, and abutting said cylinder.

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